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LB 833, 961, 964, 1023

Legislature, I appreciate the bodies willingness to allow the consideration of this amendment. I'll just briefly go over the items contained in AM3063.

SENATOR CROSBY: (Gavel)

SENATOR DIERKS: As indicated, this amendment strikes the original provisions of LB 833 and inserts the substantive provisions of three other bills. Section 4 inserts provisions of LB 964, which defines the veterinary-client-patient relationship and requires that activities that fall within the practice of veterinary practice be performed within a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship. The definition of VCPR, or veterinary-client-patient relationship, is found on page 4, beginning on line 12. The definition was developed by the American Veterinary Medical Association and is used in the federal regulations governing veterinary prescription activity and the off-label use of certain drugs. This language has already been adopted by 18 other states. Essentially, the amendment does not add any additional requirements than veterinarians are already subject to under federal law. The advantage of including the VCPR requirement under state law is to add state licensure discipline to the tools to enforce proper prescription writing of veterinary medicines. Section 5 of the bill adds the provisions of LB 961. This bill would statutorily define rules governing disclosure by veterinarians of information regarding their care of client's animals. While Section 5 might be referred to as a type of veterinary-client privilege, it is very limited compared to existing privileges that exist between doctors and patients, or lawyers and clients. The amendment limits the circumstances under which a veterinarian may be compelled to disclose information to a third party. It limits that to information disclosed to comply with disease reporting and a court order. The amendment also lists those circumstances under which a veterinarian is not liable to a client for release of information. The remaining portions of the amendment are LB 1023 as advanced to Select File. LB 1023 provided an alternative means for foreign-trained veterinarians to demonstrate competency to obtain a license to practice veterinary medicine in Nebraska. Existing statutory language requires practicing veterinarians in this state to have graduated from an accredited veterinary school. Accredited